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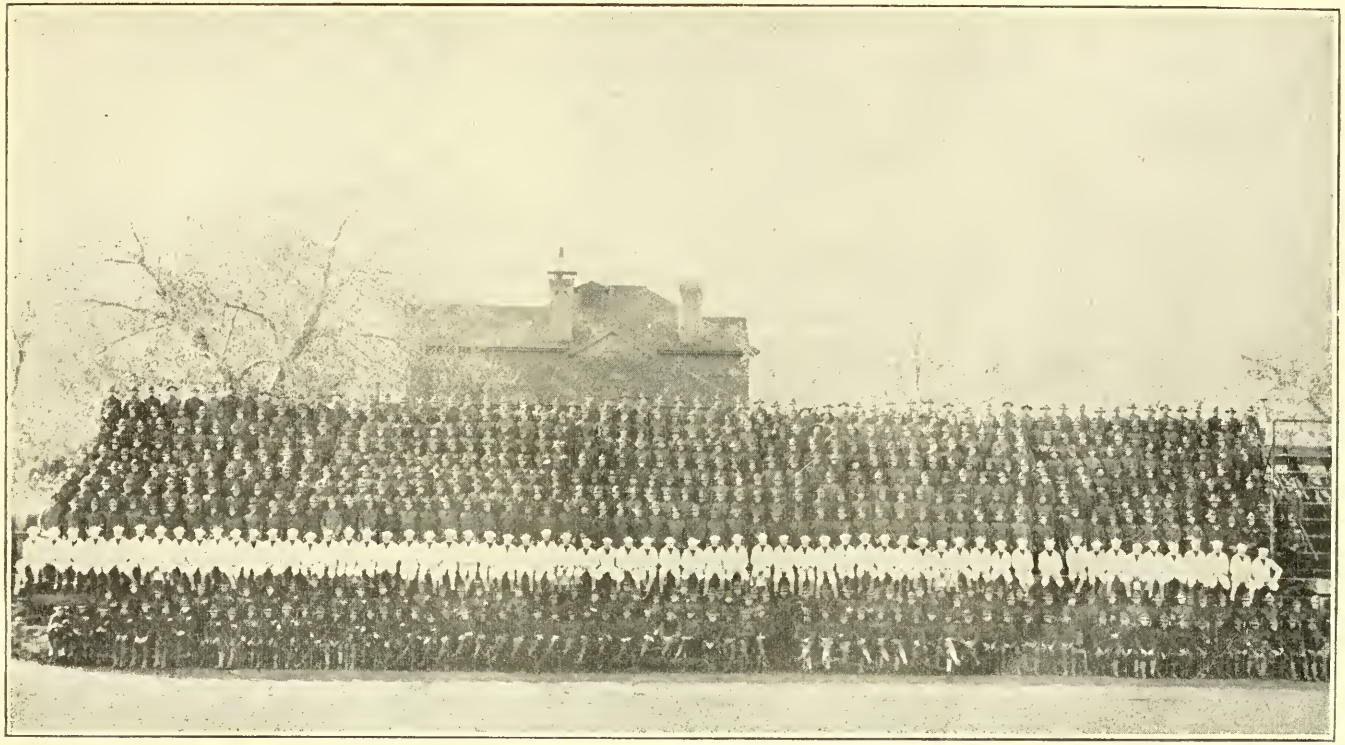
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BULLETIN

Vol. XVIII, No. 10 General Series No. 131

Published Monthly by the Regents of the University of Colorado.
Entered at the Post Office, Boulder, Colorado, as second-class mail matter.

THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO IN WAR TIME

BOULDER, COLORADO, OCTOBER, 1918



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO STUDENT ARMY TRAINING CORPS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO IN WAR TIME

Professor Thomas M. Marshall, of the History Department, Has Contributed This Survey of the University Activities in War Time

Soon after the United States entered the war the universities and colleges throughout the country were confronted by a grave situation. Large numbers of students enlisted, many members of the faculties engaged in various branches of war service, and many of the institutions which depend largely upon tuition found their incomes depleted. The part which universities were to play in the great drama was not foreseen and a perplexing condition existed in the domain of higher education. Some institutions even contemplated closing for the period of the war, but saner views soon prevailed and it became evident to college presidents, regents, and faculties that the universities could be made powerful agencies to assist the government of the United States. This assistance could be rendered by aiding at the council board, by helping the public to obtain a more intelligent idea of the European situation and of the reasons for the entry of the United States into the war, and in many other ways.

The University of Colorado faced the situation without flinching. It experienced no hysteria and none of the state verging upon panic which was noticeable in some institutions. Its one desire was to be of service. It was realized that economies must be practiced, and that its energies must be bent to the great purpose of winning the war. In a few months over eight hundred stars were on its service flag; students had enlisted and won commissions before they became subject to the draft; and many of the men who had given the University its high place in the educational world had gone into the service.

It is said on good authority that the University of Colorado has given to the war tasks of the nation a larger proportion of its faculty than any other institution in the country.* It is impossible in this brief bulletin to give a complete list of the faculty members who are in service; the following statement, however, will illustrate the varied fields to which they have been called: President Livingston Farrand is head of the American Commission for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in France; Dean Milo S. Ketchum of the College of Engineering is in charge of the construction of a vast explosives plant at Nitro, West Virginia; Professor Oliver C. Lester of the Physics Department and Dean John D. Fleming of the Law School are inspecting courses in Students Army Training Corps institutions; Professor James N. Ashmore, Director of Physical Training, is directing sports in an army camp; Professor Max M. Ellis of the Biology Department is in the Sanitary Corps of the army; Mr. Arthur E. Gilman of the Extension Division is in army Y. M. C. A. work; Professor Arnold J. Lien of the Political Science Department is in Red Cross work in France; Professor Lawrence W. Cole is captain assigned to the medical division for mental tests in the army; Professor C. Henry Smith, the University Librarian, built the army library at Camp Cody; Dean Homer C. Washburn, Professor F. G. Folsom, and Professor I. C. Crawford are majors in the army. Under the direction of Dean Charles N. Meader Base Hospital 29 was organized and to it the University contributed twelve faculty members as well as a number of

*See Robert Lincoln Kelly's article in Scribner's Magazine, January, 1918.

students; this unit is now on active duty over-seas. When the war started there were two hundred and twenty-two instructors on the faculty; of these, seventy-four have been called into service.

Those who remained have served no less than those who have gone. In the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Patriotic League, Liberty Loan and War Savings Stamp drives, in hospital service, and in the many other activities made necessary by the war, faculty and students have given of their time and money without stint.*

In spite of the drain upon the student body and faculty the University did not suffer a great depletion in numbers. At the end of the first year of the participation of the United States in the war the total enrollment was 1,259 as compared with 1,405 of the previous year. To stop the gaps made by the inroads of war efforts were made to bring new men into the faculty, thirty-two instructors having been added since the war began. A few courses were necessarily dropped, but the already over-burdened faculty took stock of its reserve strength and assumed the work of those who had gone, so that the efficiency of the University was not materially impaired.

THE R. O. T. C.

It soon became evident that higher educational institutions could be a vast recruiting ground for officers and technical experts for the rapidly growing army of the United States. The first step in utilizing this body of officers' material was the establishment of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, familiarly known as the R. O. T. C. By an act of Congress of June 3, 1916, provision was made for the organization of the corps and the establishment of units in institutions which were found to be adequately equipped. The University of Colorado applied for the establishment of a unit, and after the institution had been duly inspected by the War Department, its request was granted.

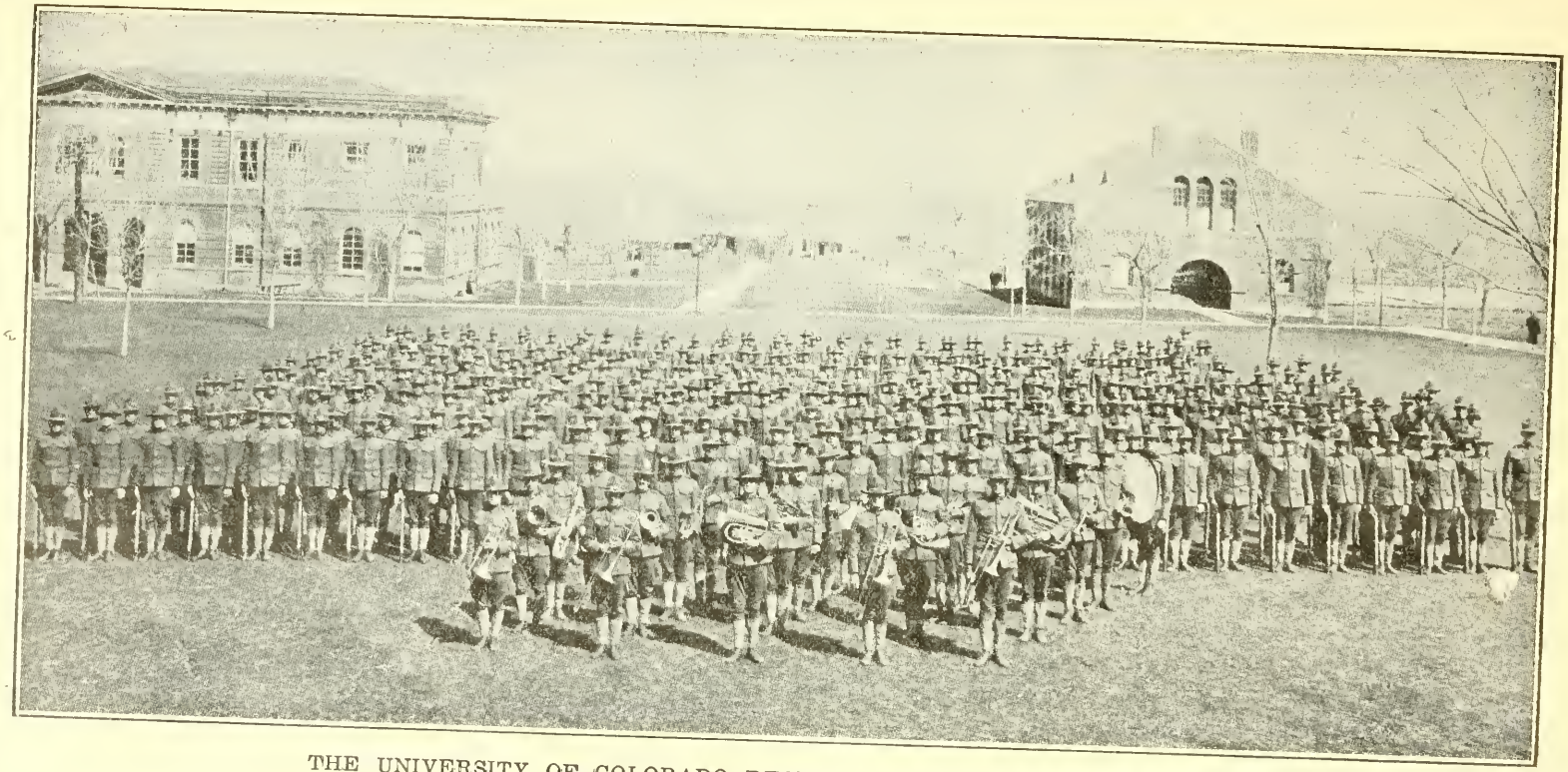
Over four hundred men were soon enrolled in the R. O. T. C. and Captain (now Major) James A. Merritt, U. S. A., retired, was placed in command. Six companies were eventually organized. Government uniforms were issued and the unit was supplied with rifles, one-half of the cost of the latter being met by John A. McKenna, a public-spirited citizen of Boulder. Of the R. O. T. C. over a hundred cadets have already received commissions. In addition to their military training, the members of the R. O. T. C. received regular academic instruction, each student carrying a full course in his chosen field. Some additional courses were needed to meet the requirements of the War Department. Accordingly courses were offered in aeroplane construction and operation, automobile construction and operation, wireless telegraphy and telegraphy operating, military mapping and sketching, military explosives, military hygiene and sanitation, camp sanitation, mental tests for war service, and conversational French and German.

Special courses bearing upon the war and open to all students were given on international law and govermental ideals of states at war, the European origin of the war, and on the United States and the war. Professor James F. Willard is offering a course on Colorado in the War in which material on the war activities of Colorado people is being collected with a view to future publication. This work is now backed by the State Council of Defense and is meeting with the hearty cooperation of the counties.

TRAINING SOLDIERS IN VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS.

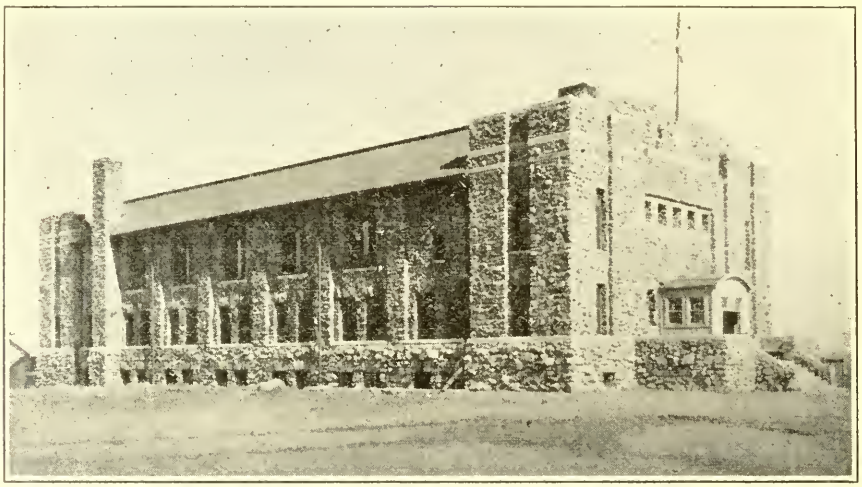
As the new national army was organized the War Department found that it was short of well-trained mechanics, concrete workers, telegraph operators, and

*For other activities of faculty members during the academic year 1917-1918, reference may be made to the article on "The University of Colorado and the War" in The Colorado Alumnus, April, 1918, and to the University of Colorado Bulletin of the Patriotic League. Neither of these, however, is complete.



THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

signal service men. Once more the Universities were able to come to the assistance of the government. On April 25, 1918, the University of Colorado entered into a contract with the War Department to instruct National Army Training Detachments of two hundred and fifty men each in vocational subjects. The first contingent, composed of men from Utah, arrived on May 15. Sixty of these men were assigned as auto mechanics and drivers, sixty for radio, sixty for telegraphy, fifty for concrete work, and twenty for general mechanics. They were housed and messed in the armory and were given instruction in the engineering buildings.



STATE ARMORY—USED AS S. A. T. C. BARRACKS.

The able Commanding Officer, Captain Burr A. Beard, and his efficient staff soon brought the contingent to a high standard. When the Utah detachment finished its training, twelve men were sent at once to Officers' Training Camps. Most of the others were sent to Camp Dodge and eighty percent were soon made non-commissioned officers and sent overseas. Already several of them have made the supreme sacrifice for their country. A number of the Utah contingent were retained at the University to assist in instructing and training the next unit.

A second contingent of two hundred and fifty from our own state arrived on July 15 and remained for eight weeks. They were an unusually fine body of men and under the same officers they reached a degree of efficiency far above the average usually attained in a period of eight weeks training. The instruction given to the Colorado contingent was the same as that for the Utah unit with the exception that a course of lectures on the causes of the war was introduced at the suggestion of the War Department Committee on Education and Special Training. When the men finished their period of training, fifteen were sent to Officers' Training Camps, five to the Signal Officers' School at Yale, and others were distributed among various schools for training as experts. As before, several were held at the University as instructors and officers. The third contingent arrived on September 15 and was composed of men from Montana. These were discharged from service on December 10.

On September 2 the University entered into a third contract with the War Department. This agreement provided that between November 15, 1918, and June 15, 1919, the University should train approximately nine hundred men in vocational subjects in detachments of three hundred

HOUSES USED AS HOSPITALS AND BARRACKS.

each, but the sudden ending of the war caused the War Department to cancel the contract.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL

In spite of the war the University Summer School was carried on under the able direction of Professor Milo G. Derham. Six hundred and seventy-two students were in attendance. In addition to a full curriculum several courses and forty-three public lectures which had direct bearing upon the war were offered.

THE S. A. T. C.

The demand of the army for officers and technical experts became more and more insistent during the spring and summer of 1918. To meet this demand the War Department determined to use the institutions of higher education to the fullest extent possible and organized the Students Army Training Corps. As soon as the plan was worked out, the State University was asked to assume the responsibility of enlisting the interest and co-operation of the other institutions of the State and of carrying on a campaign of information among the people of Colorado.

The corps was divided into two sections, the collegiate and vocational, the latter composed of the above-mentioned National Army Training Detachments.* The collegiate section was open to registrants who were members of some authorized college, university, or professional school. Registrants who were graduates of standard four year secondary schools, or who had equivalent educational qualifications, or who in the judgment of the University authorities would be able to do college work, were also admitted to the collegiate section.

Students of the University joined the S. A. T. C. by induction into the service. They then became members of the army with the status of privates, receiving pay and subsistence; they were subject to military orders and lived in barracks under military discipline. These men, like soldiers in the general army, were in service for the period of the existing emergency, and it remained with the President of the United States to declare when that emergency was over. A recent order from the War Department informed the University authorities that demobilization of the S. A. T. C. was to begin on December 1, and be completed by December 21.

A naval detachment was also maintained at the University. These men wore naval uniforms, and paid their own expenses from an allowance made to them by the Navy Department. They attended drill and exercises of the S. A. T. C. and pursued a course prescribed by the Navy Department. They were also demobilized under the War Department order.

UNIVERSITY REORGANIZATION.

The introduction of the S. A. T. C. presented a distinct and difficult problem. The University was already under contract to train several hundred men in vocational subjects. It faced the probability of receiving seven or eight hundred men in the collegiate S. A. T. C. who were to be given military training and such educational courses as the War Department Committee on Education and Special Training considered necessary, and it was to house, feed, and provide hospital service for this body of men. But it must be remembered that this was not to be the only work of the University. It was to remain primarily an educational institution which would not only train members of the S. A. T. C., but continue to carry on the manifold activities of a University. Hundreds of women were to be given the same opportunities as before; teachers were to be trained; men who were not in the S .A. T. C. were to be cared for; valuable research work and the graduate school were not to be a-

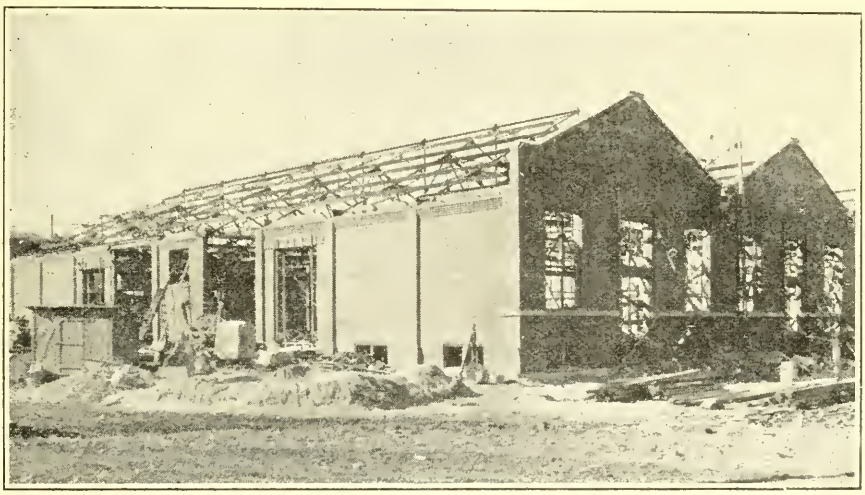
*The section dealing with the S. A. T. C. is taken almost in its entirety from the government descriptive circular, "The Students Army Training Corps", corrected to October 14, 1918. The language of the circular is frequently used without quotation marks.

bandoned; in short it was as far as possible to be what it had been with the added burden of educating a thousand men for the army.

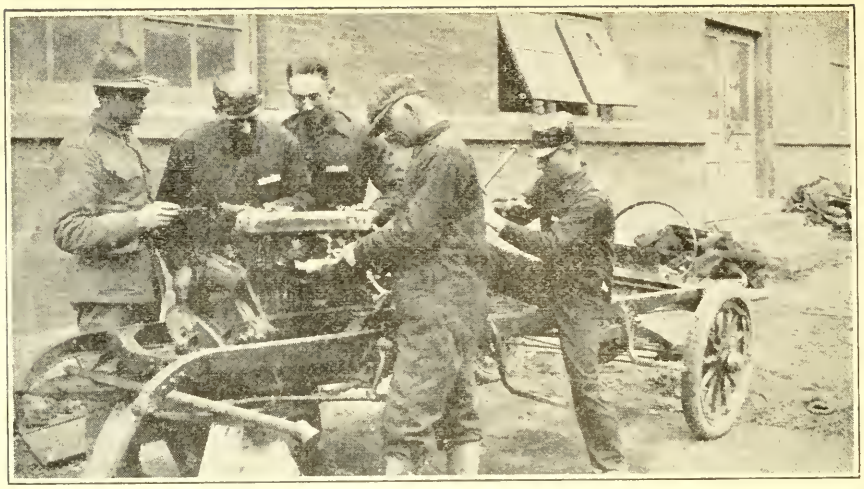
To meet the new situation the time was all too short. The date of opening was placed at October 1, to allow the students to work in the fields, factories, and mines as long as possible before returning to college. In less than a month many new courses had to be organized and a program prepared, in addition to providing housing for the S. A. T. C. men. The plan for the S. A. T. C. necessitated the abandonment of the semester system and the adoption of the four quarter plan. A reorganization of the curricula was also necessary to meet the new conditions.

In the College of Liberal Arts it seemed best to make provision for practically two colleges, one for the young women and for the men who were not in the S. A. T. C., the other for the S. A. T. C. A few courses were available for both classes of students, especially those in French, algebra, trigonometry, and composition. New courses in military hygiene and sanitation, military geography and topography, meteorology, and ballistics were organized. The War Department Committee on Education and Special Training asked that every member of the Students Army Training Corps be given a course in the causes of the war. Accordingly the History Department arranged a course of thirty lectures on the historical, social, and economic background of the Great War.

The courses in the Engineering School underwent a more profound change than those of any other college. This was due to the fact that practically all of the students in this college were members of the S. A. T. C. Out of a total of over six hundred men in the collegiate section of that organization, four hundred and sixty elected engineering. Among these was a naval unit of seventy-seven men who were sent to the University for training as engineers in the navy. In addition to this the task of training the vocational section also fell upon this college. To meet the situation several additional instructors were employed and all the engineering courses were speeded up so that the students could get the essentials of engineering in two years instead of four. Special arrangements are being made for engineering students who had already completed two or three years of work in the University. A war aims course was arranged for the college



NEW ENGINEERING LABORATORY.

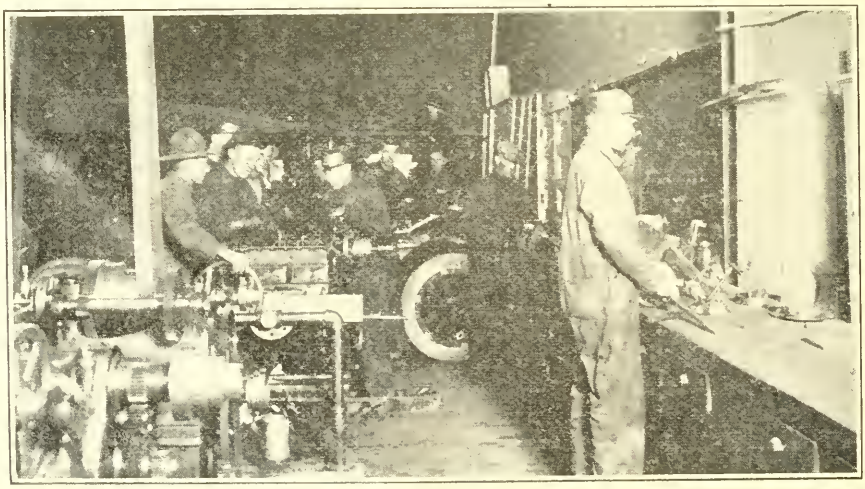


S. A. T. C. AUTO MECHANICS AT WORK.

in conjunction with courses in English.

Just before the war the University, which is inadequately housed, was making extensive plans for a large building program. This was temporarily put aside because of the increasing cost of materials and because of the feeling that every possible economy should be practiced. But the influx of engineering students which began to show itself last spring made it evident that the present plant would not suffice. Consequently the Regents determined to build another engineering laboratory. It has been under construction since June. The new building is located just west of the engineering shops and is the same general type of structure, the dimensions being 135 by 160 feet. It will cost approximately $90,000. A temporary building to house automobiles has also been erected.

The School of Law was hit harder by



TRAINING SOLDIERS IN THE SHOPS.

the war than any other college. Most of the older students enlisted and few of the S. A. T. C. men elected law. Junior and Senior classes were combined and one of the professors was allowed temporarily to devote his time to work in the College of Liberal Arts. Courses in military law were given to seventy-five members of the S. A. T. C. The departure of Dean Fleming to inspect law courses in S. A. T. C. institutions leaves but two professors in the Law School to carry on the work.

In the Medical School measures were taken to make possible the completion of the work in a shorter period than in normal times. The last two years were placed on the continuous session basis last June, so that the class which would normally have graduated next June will finish in February, and the class which normally would have graduated in June, 1920, will graduate in September, 1919. With the beginning of the present academic year all classes are placed on the same basis. The main emphasis of course continues to be laid on a well-rounded medical education, but certain special courses are given which have a distinct military character. Thus, there is a special course in military hygiene and a special course in military surgery. Other regular courses in medicine and surgery have been modified to a slight extent to take account of diseases especially incident to war work, as for example shell shock and trench fever.

To meet the great demand for nurses a special twelve weeks course in nurses training was given in connection with the Nurses' Training School, beginning July 1 and ending September 21, the course being patterned after that given at Vassar College. This course will soon be offered again. To make it possible to train a larger number of nurses, the University has erected a nurses' home which cost approximately $6,000 and will give accommodation for twenty additional nurses.

The work of the Graduate School is continuing, although with a falling off in attendance, the registration in 1917-1918 being seventy-two as compared with ninety-six in 1915-1916. Owing to the disturbed conditions caused by the epidemic, to the fact that registration in the Graduate School is always late, and to the fact that many of the younger instructors in the University who usually take graduate work are in war service, it is impossible to state at present the number in the school for the current year. However, the indications are promising and the University is prepared to carry on the advanced work as in previous years.

The University Extension Division found its activities somewhat curtailed by the fact that some of its work was taken over by state or national agencies, especially its Americanization program. For several years the Bureau of Vocational Instruction of the Extension Division has been conducting classes in the coal camps, smelters, packing houses, sugar beet factories, and similar plants. Two years ago this bureau undertook the teaching of English and elementary branches to foreigners. When the Department of the Interior and the National Council of Defense last spring took up this work as a national emergency measure, calling upon State Councils of Defense to push it vigorously through state Americanization committees, the Governor of Colorado appointed the Acting President of the University to head the Americanization Committee of the Colorado State Council of Defense and asked the University to lend to this committee such machinery for Americanization as it had worked out. The Regents of the University are at present contributing the full time of two members of the Faculty and the partial time of two other members to Americanization work in Colorado.

The Bureau of Vocational Instruction of the Extension Division is now giving special attention to instruction in engineering mathematics, automobile operation, and various other courses which will assist in fitting men for war service. A bureau of the Extension Division is giving work which will fit students to take civil service examinations. Courses are also

being given in war aims, educational reconstruction, and in the reorganization of business. Child welfare institutes are being held and a representative is maintained on the Western Slope who is conducting classes in hygiene and health, in patriotism, and in various other subjects.

When demobilization began the registration in the University was as follows: Medicine 71, Law 12, Liberal Arts 701, Engineering 460, Pharmacy 21, Training School for Nurses 35, Vocational Section of the S. A. T. C. 300; a total registration of 1600. This does not include the registration in the graduate school, nor students in extension classes. At present it is impossible to estimate the falling off in attendance caused by demobilization, but it is probable that the majority of the men will remain in college.

DAILY LIFE IN THE STUDENTS ARMY TRAINING CORPS.

The War Department regulations concerning S. A. T. C. units provided that the University should house and feed the men, and provide adequate hospital facilities. The University is not equipped with dormitories and in the emergency strenuous measures were necessary. The fraternities showed a fine spirit of co-operation and gladly leased their houses to the University. Several large houses near the campus were also secured. These did not give sufficient room, nor were they properly arranged for messing such a large number of men. The armory was already occupied by the vocational section of the S. A. T. C. It was therefore necessary to build large dining halls where all of the collegiate S. A. T. C. could mess, and barracks which would accommodate three hundred men. Under the supervision of Professor Whitney C. Huntington these buildings were erected according to designs of the War Department. The barracks contain 16,800 square feet of floor space and cost approximately $22,000. A separate mess hall with a capacity for three hundred and eighty men was erected at a cost of $6,000.

The daily life of the men followed War Department regulations. The program was as follows: Reveille 6:00, mess 6:20, drill 7:30 to 9:30, classes 9:30 to 12:00, mess 12:00 to 1:30, classes 1:30 to 4:30, athletics and exercise 4:30 to 5:30, retreat and mess 6:00, freedom 6:30 to 7:30, supervised study 7:30 to 9:30, taps 10:00. At least forty-two hours of study and class work per week were required.

The military supervision was under officers assigned to the University by the War Department, the staff being made up of a major, three captains, thirteen second lieutenants, a chief master-at-arms, a doctor, and a dentist. Eleven companies were organized. The men were furnished army clothing, including overcoats and and sweaters, and with blankets. They were armed with modified Enfield and Russian rifles.

The organization of the S. A .T. C. brought about a complete change in college athletics. The plan followed was not to build up championship teams, but to see that every man was made physically fit. An athletic coach was engaged, his business being to organize sports in which all the men could participate. The chief interest was in inter-company contests rather than in inter-collegiate rivalries. In addition to games and drill, the men were given calisthenics, this branch being under the direction of the company commanders.

The feeding of the men was carefully supervised, great attention being given to the quality and quantity of the food. The following menu taken at random from a pile of daily menus will give an adequate idea of the army mess:

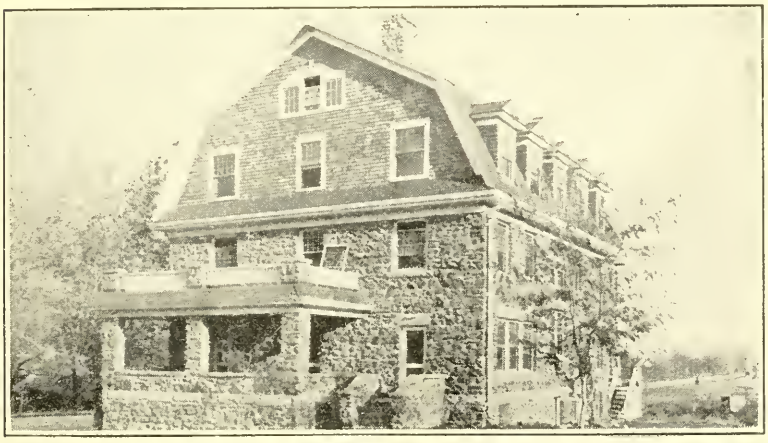
Menu for Thursday, October 31, 1918.

Breakfast—Oatmeal and milk, grapes, fried bacon and fried apples, fried potatoes, coffee, bread, and butter.

Lunch—Stewed beef with vegetables, mashed potatoes, succotash, parsnips, stewed peaches, coffee, and bread.

Dinner—Soup, roast beef with brown gravy, steamed potatoes, spaghetti creole, celery salad, stewed cranberries, coffee, and bread.

The War Department was fully convinced that a singing army is more potent

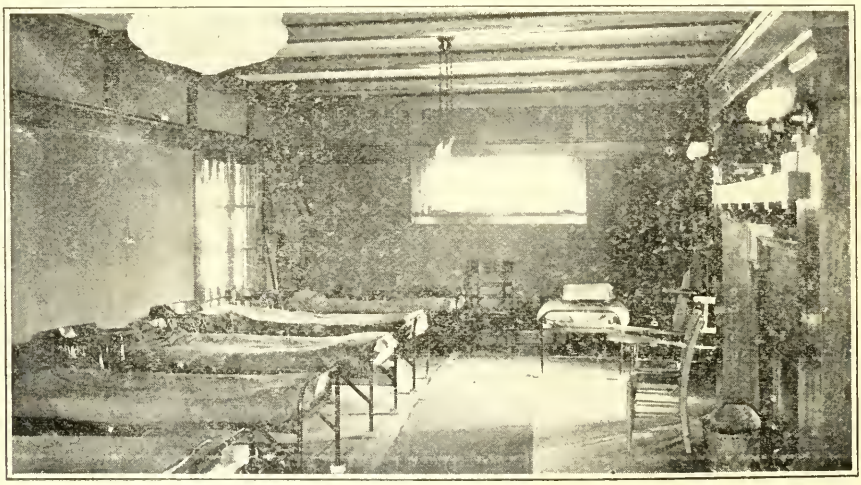


HOUSES USED AS BARRACKS,

INTERIOR OF ARMY Y. M. C. A.

than a silent one and adopted means to organize group singing in the Students Army Training Corps. The organization of singing in the University was assigned to Chaplain Roy W. Hamilton, who appointed song leaders in each company. The joyous singing of the soldiers was a pleasure to the men and to all those connected with them.

The University took pains to see that a healthy social and religious atmosphere was maintained. The Army Y. M. C. A. proved to be an efficacious factor. The Colorado Union generously placed its building and equipment at the service of the "Y". A canteen was opened and men were allowed to deposit money for safe keeping with the secretary. Religious services were held at which clergymen of various denominations officiated. The present Secretary is Dr. Donald McFayden of the History Department. He is assisted by the Reverend R. P. Taylor, an old football star, who acts as physical director. By the work of the Y. M. C. A. and of the Reverend Roy W. Hamilton, Chaplain of the Corps, a high moral tone was preserved among the men.



S. A. T. C. BARRACKS—INTERIOR.

ONE OF THE NEW BARRACKS.

Under the direction of the Y. W. C. A. a Hostess House was maintained where the men in training could meet their friends and relatives. Much was done to add to the enjoyment of the soldiers by social gatherings and musical entertainments. During the epidemic the Hostess, Miss Maud E. Craig, did a great deal to add to the comfort of the sick. When the Woman's Building had to be given over the President's home on the campus was made the social center for the S. A. T. C.

The spirit of the S. A .T. C. was remarkable. In spite of the epidemic and the interruption of the college work, these young soldiers refused to be depressed. When the Fourth Liberty Loan Drive was in progress the men responded very generously, the average subscription being $60 per man, which is said to be the best showing made by any army unit in the country.

THE EPIDEMIC.

The epidemic of Spanish influenza was brought to the University by the Montana

INTERIOR VIEW OF BARRACKS.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
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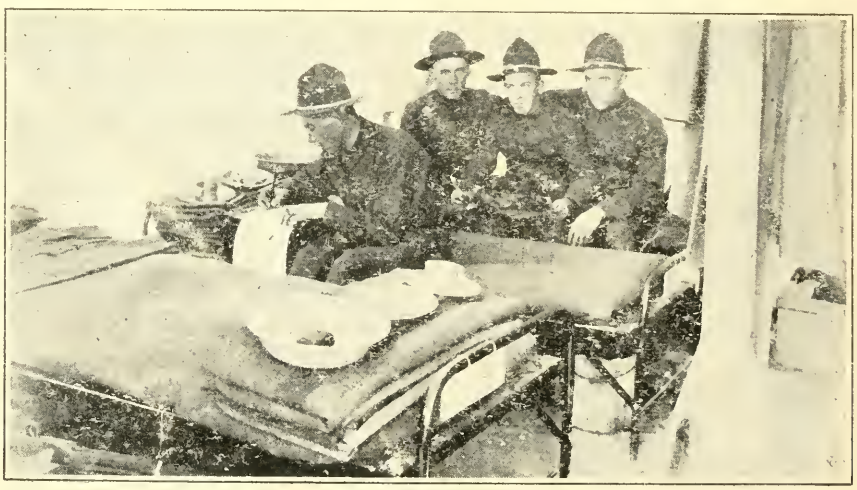
S. A. T. C. TENTS PITCHED NEAR HOSPITAL.

contingent. When they arrived on September 19 two or three of these men were suffering with the disease. It was not recognized as Spanish influenza until the 21st, at which time a fraternity house was taken over as a hospital. The number of medical men on duty at the University being inadequate to combat the epidemic, civilian doctors and nurses were employed. The rapid spread of the disease soon made it necessary to bring in medical officers and nurses from Fort Leavenworth and Fort Logan. The epidemic as a whole presented one striking peculiarity. It burst forth with great violence at the beginning, ran a rapid course, and subsided as rapidly as it commenced. Out of several hundred cases nineteen deaths occurred. It is the judgment of Major Bennett, the chief of the medical staff, that the most important measure adopted in the handling of the epidemic was the dispersion of the men so that more air space could be allotted to each man. Many were housed in tents and others were taken from their barracks and given quarters in buildings on the campus. The University is now practically free from the disease and resumed work on November 11 as directed by the Secretary of the State Board of Health. The health situation is now excellent, and there is no sign of a recurrence of the epidemic.



INTERIOR OF ARMY TENT.